



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

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SR 227

REQUESTING POSTPONEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Statement for

Senate Committee on Ecology, Environment and Recreation
and Senate Committee on Economic Development
Public Hearing, 14 March 1977

by

Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center
A. M. Dollar, School of Public Health
John M. Hylin, Dept. of Agricultural Biochemistry

SR 227 would request that the Federal Environmental Protection Agency "suspend implementation of further environmental controls on Hawaii's agricultural industries for a period of 2 years." This statement of this bill has been submitted for review to the legislative subcommittee of the Environmental Center of the University of Hawaii. It does not represent an institutional position of the University.

This resolution correctly observes that: "Hawaii's agricultural industries must be regulated in the context of Hawaii's unique environmental conditions," but that such regulation may be onerous.

We consider that in several respects, the environmental controls placed by the EPA on Hawaii environmental industries have been unduly onerous because they are inappropriate under Hawaii's special environmental conditions. The Environmental Center and other units of the University have, indeed, been engaged in several efforts to have controls proposed by EPA modified in the light of these conditions. The air pollution resulting from agricultural field burning, which is referred to in the fifth paragraph of the resolution, for example, is already subject to appropriate control, and there is no current threat of further unduly stringent controls.

We would consider it thoroughly justified to request EPA to take into regional environmental differences into account in determining what controls are justified. However, we do not consider it appropriate to request a moratorium on the implementation of these controls which are appropriate under Hawaiian conditions.